



Charlotte County Government

"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."

www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov

March 30, 2015

RE: El Jobean Wastewater Service Survey

Dear Property Owner:

In 2012-2013 Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) responded to public requests to investigate and consider the feasibility of extending centralized wastewater services to properties in the El Jobean area. At that time, we conducted several informational open-house meetings, provided educational materials and conducted surveys of interest with the community. Since that time, CCU has completed a few extensions of centralized wastewater service to your neighbors and we are in the process of extending a few more lines to serve additional properties. It is for this reason that we have been approached again by a few El Jobean property owners for additional facts about septic systems versus centralized wastewater services. They have also asked us to reach out to their community for new survey responses to gain a better understanding of the wastewater needs of the residents.

Please understand, there is no project that has been or is under consideration or discussion by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners regarding wastewater services to the El Jobean community as a whole. We are simply sharing this information as a public service. We care about our community, being good stewards of our resources and providing excellence in customer service.

Septic System Facts:

The average useful life of a septic system is Twelve (12) to Twenty (20) Years.

The estimated cost to repair or replace an entire septic system after failure is Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) based on several factors including setbacks from surface water, drainfield separation distance from the seasonal high ground water table, available undeveloped area, and other design factors.

Localized septic failures can result in seepage into the ground water, the waterway system and ultimately the receiving waters of Charlotte Harbor. In addition, tidal flows impact the speed of transfer between the failed septic system and the receiving waters.

Each homeowner is fully responsible for any and all permits, fees, pump-outs, repairs and/or replacement of their septic systems at their own cost, generally without any financing options.

UTILITIES

Administration | Business Services
Engineering Services | Operations

25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 1 | Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2503
Phone: 941.764.4300 | Fax: 941.764.4319

Wastewater Collection System (Sewer Connections)

The average useful life of a public wastewater system (piping) is more than One Hundred (100) Years; Fifty (50) years for structural components; and, Twenty (20) years for mechanical components. Public Utility is responsible for maintenance, repair, and upkeep of collection system piping and pump stations within easements and public right of way through monthly rates to customers utilizing their services.

The centralized wastewater system can be financed at a very low rate through a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) program with the cost spread over a twenty year (20) or more period of equal annual payments. The most current wastewater expansion project, East and West Spring Lake Wastewater MSBU, is being completed as a total turn-key operation including the hook-up or connection of each home to the centralized wastewater system. This method avoids any additional out-of-pocket expenses by each property owner and limits their payments to only the annual MSBU assessment.

In the case of East and West Spring Lake Wastewater MSBU residents, the annual assessment for the typical residential homeowner is less than \$500 per year. Grants were obtained to keep the assessment affordable for this project. The annual assessment amount for El Jobean homeowners would be based upon wastewater system costs for El Jobean and may differ slightly.

To Recap:

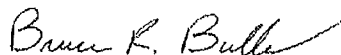
The cost to repair and/or replace most septic systems when they are in failure is likely to be more than the cost to hook up to a public centralized wastewater system.

The average life span of a septic system is Twelve (12) to Twenty (20) years with the property owner bearing all costs, as opposed to the pipelines of a public collection system at more than One Hundred (100) years which are maintained through monthly sewer rates.

We ask you to please fill out the attached survey and return by April 10, 2015 to the following address:

**CCU
25550 Harborview Drive, Suite 1
Port Charlotte, Florida 33980**

Thank you very much.



Bruce Bullert, P.E.
Engineering Services Manager

El Jobean Area - Wastewater Service Survey -3/27/2015

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Owner Address: _____

How many properties do you own? _____

- 1) Before you received this letter from us, did you know the average life span of your septic system was approximately Twelve (12) - Twenty (20) years?

Circle ONE YES NO

- 2) Have you had a septic system failure at this address or are you limited in your water usage due to your septic system's inability to handle all your household water usage during certain days or seasons?

Circle ONE YES NO

- 3) The average cost to replace an entire septic system in failure is Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000); does that figure surprise you?

Circle ONE YES NO

- 4) What is the age of your septic system? Insert age _____

- 5) Did you know that the County can implement a program where the wastewater system construction and connection costs can be paid over a Twenty (20) year or more period on your property tax bill and that if you sell your property, the remaining wastewater system construction and connection fees can continue to be paid on the property tax bill by the new owner?

Circle ONE YES NO

- 6) Would you support CCU investigating affordable options to bring a centralized wastewater system to your neighborhood?

Circle ONE YES NO

Thank you for your time in helping us learn more.